

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00292 201249Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 201146Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5907

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 292

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SY

SUBJ: ELF/PLF CONFERENCE CONCLUDES ACTIVITIES IN DAMASCUS

1. ACCORDING ITALIAN EMBASSY SOURCE, ELF/PLF SUMMIT CONFERENCE CONCLUDED ITS ACTIVITIES IN DAMASCUS JAN 15. HE ASSERTED THAT MOST NOTABLE RESULT WAS FORMATION OF SEVEN-MAN COMMITTEE SELECTED FROM BOTH ERITREAN GROUPS TO HOLD MEETING IN KHARTOUM JAN 30 AND THEN PROCEED TO ERITREA FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH FIELD MILITARY COMMANDERS. PURPOSE OF TALKS REPORTEDLY WILL CENTER ON GAINING ACQUIESENCE OF MILITARY COMMANDERS TO LEGITIMACY OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, WHICH SPENDS MOST OF ITS TIME OUTSIDE ERITREA.

2. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF DELEGATION MEMBERS AND THEIR POSTS WHICH PROVIDED TO SOURCE BY ONE OF ITS SEVEN MEMBERS:

A) WOLDEAB WOLDEMARIAM (CAIRO)

B) HAMID (HAMRSCIOLO) (CAIRO)

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C) ALAMIN (KUWAIT)

D) MOHAMED ALI (BEIRUT)

E) WOLDMICAEL GHEBREMARIAM (ADEN)

F) TAHA NUR (JIDDA)

G) ZEGGAI KAHSAI (ROME)

3. SOURCE STATED THAT TAHA NUR, ERITREAN REP JIDDA, HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH ERITREAN GROUPS HOLDING AMERICAN, ENGLISH AND PRISONERS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES IN ORDER TO GAIN THEIR RELEASE. NUR WILL BE ASSISTED BY TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION. SOURCE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY ERITREANS THAT ALL PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED "VERY SOON.Z

4. IN REPLY OUR QUESTIONS, SOURCE CONFIRMED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT BOTH ELF AND PLF REPS HAD PARTICIPATED IN CONFERENCE.

MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC00292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760020-1189
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760142/aaaabkth.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELF/PLF CONFERENCE CONCLUDES ACTIVITIES IN DAMASCUS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SY, ELF, PLF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006